FIFTH ESTATE

Security Education

Dear Fifth Estate Supporter:

Disaster has befallen us. Under somewhat mysterious circumstances, an expected foundation grant, covering our expenses for the next eight months, has been withdrawn. At this time we lack the 'hard' evidence neccessary to make an issue of this withdrawal.

This disaster has happened to us at a time when we stand at the threshold of being effectively able to challenge many of the sixty-plus Federal agencies that are gathering information on American citizens and others throughout the world. The information presented in the last issue of CounterSpy, for instance, has had a serious effect on some of the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency. Womens groups in the United States have been made aware of CIA's intentions for International Women's Year. The CIA has been asked by members of Parliment to leave Great Britain. Other countries are expected to follow suit. And George Meany is increasingly on the defensive about CIA involvement with the AFL-CIO's international programs.

Over the coming year we have equally effective programs in mind for challenging the Orwellian practices of agencies like the FBI, and the Drug Enforcement Administration. And we are hoping to be able to provide the public with the basic tools to make our techniques and methodologies widely available for use in researching State and local agencies.

As things stand now, the Fifth Estate is facing the prospect of having to terminate our operations sometime in March. In order for us to survive long enough to seek additional substantive funding, we are forced to turn to you for assistance.

Our short term goal is to raise $5000. This will enable us to keep our doors open into the summer. When you consider that the United States will be spending nearly $4,000,000,000 during the same period to gather "intelligence", our goal seems quite modest indeed. This letter is going out to just over 500 individuals, who, in the past, have indicated support for Fifth Estate activities. In our desperation we are hoping that the return from this mailing will average $10 per letter, a goal that will be imposible to attain unless you respond by giving generously.

Donations to the Fifth Estate should be sent to us c/o Post Office Box 647, Ben Franklin Station, Washington DC 20044.

The staff of the Fifth Estate hopes that you will find it in your heart to respond to our plea. At a minimum, we hope that you will take this opportunity to renew or extend your subscription to CounterSpy.

Thank you for your consideration,

Doug Porter, Winslow Peck, Margaret Van Houten, and Tim Butz.